

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method of preventing floral organ loss in a plant, comprising: mutating the ARF GAP domain of a NEVERSHED gene in said plant.

Claim 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 8, wherein said mutating comprises exposing said plant to ethyl methanesulphonate (EMS).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 8, wherein said NEVERSHED gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 8, wherein said mutating results in said NEVERSHED gene expressing a protein that is not full-length.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 8, wherein said mutating results in said NEVERSHED gene expressing an inactive protein.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 8, wherein said mutating introduces a stop codon into said NEVERSHED gene.

Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (New): The method of Claim 8, further comprising determining if said mutation results in prevention of floral organ loss in said plant.

Claim 17 (New): The method of Claim 10, further comprising determining if said mutation results in prevention of floral organ loss in said plant.

Claim 18 (New): The method of Claim 11, further comprising determining if said mutation results in prevention of floral organ loss in said plant.

Claim 19 (New): The method of Claim 12, further comprising determining if said mutation results in prevention of floral organ loss in said plant.

Claim 20 (New): The method of Claim 13, further comprising determining if said mutation results in prevention of floral organ loss in said plant.

Claim 21 (New): The method of Claim 14, further comprising determining if said mutation results in prevention of floral organ loss in said plant.